

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 29, 2005

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2005–06 REGULAR SESSION

House Resolution

No. 17

Introduced by Assembly Member Huff

June 20, 2005

House Resolution No. 17—Relative to the 100th anniversary of parole.

1 WHEREAS, ~~On July 21~~ *In July*, 1905, the first parole officer
2 was appointed. In 1909, Edward H. Whyte was hired as the first
3 Chief State Parole Officer. Mr. Whyte ~~used the media to dispel~~
4 ~~misconceptions about parole and went on to strengthen his~~
5 ~~relationship~~ *promoted public understanding about the nature of*
6 *parole and strong relationships* with law enforcement. The
7 Parole Bureau began its expansion under Whyte's leadership;
8 *and*

9 WHEREAS, In 1928, there were five parole officers in San
10 Francisco: Robert Heinze, Tom Pendergast, John Hanrahan, Jack
11 Cullen and George Bowen. The Bureau also opened an office in
12 Los Angeles staffed by Deputy Parole Officer J. E. Lewis and an
13 assistant. In 1934, Edward Whyte died and Charles C. Coxe was
14 later appointed Chief State Parole Officer; *and*

15 WHEREAS, When John Chadwick took over the helm as
16 Chief State Parole Officer in 1939, parole officers were political
17 appointees. There were no set standards for workload and
18 accountability. Chadwick knew that, for parole to continue its
19 expansion and to be effective in ensuring public safety, the
20 political element had to be removed. In 1941, Chadwick was
21 successful, and civil service requirements were instituted for all
22 parole officers with exception of the chief. ~~In~~; *and*

1 *WHEREAS, In 1943, during World War II, Chief John*
2 *Chadwick enlisted in the Navy and Allen Moore became the chief*
3 *overseeing the Bureau of Parole. During this time, inmates were*
4 *directly paroled from prison to the military to help fight the war.*
5 *The war created an acceleration of hiring for new parole officers*
6 *to replace those who left to fight. Chief Moore also oversaw the*
7 *Bureau's smooth transition to the newly organized California*
8 *Department of Corrections and the Adult Authority. In 1957, the*
9 *title was changed to parole agent. Modern day parole agents*
10 *continue to work under the foundation of this civil service law;*
11 *and*

12 ~~WHEREAS, The following laws made a major impact on~~
13 ~~parole: The initial parole law of 1889 enacted in 1893, the~~
14 ~~indeterminate sentence law of 1917, the law creating the~~
15 ~~California Institute for Women (CIW) in 1929, which segregated~~
16 ~~men and women prisoners, the law creating the California~~
17 ~~Department of Corrections and the Adult Authority of 1944, the~~
18 ~~Supreme Court case of *Brewer v. Morrissey* in 1972, which~~
19 ~~established a parolee's right to a hearing before being returned to~~
20 ~~prison, and the determinate sentence law of 1977.~~

21 WHEREAS, The law creating ~~CIW~~ *the California Institution*
22 *for Women (CIW)* and the creation of the Women's Board of
23 Trustees provided gender segregation for prisons and parolees.
24 Upon completion of CIW, women previously being held in San
25 Quentin and in county jails were moved to CIW in Tehachapi.
26 The women prisoners out on parole had only women parole
27 agents/officers - WPA/WPO. The Women's Board of Trustees
28 oversaw all operations; *and*

29 WHEREAS, Emily Latham, an initial member of the
30 Women's Board of Trustees, became the first Women's Chief of
31 Parole and oversaw all state operations. Dorothy Stahl
32 subsequently took over as Chief of women's parole operations.
33 In the late 1960s, she oversaw a push for gender desegregation
34 and a pilot project was created. Marilyn McKeehan, a women's
35 parole agent was selected to be one of the first women to
36 supervise male felons. She was successful and the Department of
37 Corrections ended gender segregation; *and*

38 WHEREAS, In 1977, under the Determinate Sentence Law,
39 the Women's Board of Trustees was eventually disbanded and
40 the California Department of Corrections, Parole & Community

1 Services Division took over responsibility for all prisoners and
2 parolees in the state; and

3 *WHEREAS, Parole is a period of supervised release where the*
4 *offender is conditionally released into the community in order to*
5 *assess the inmate's willingness to lead a law-abiding life and to*
6 *comply with the rules of the parole authority; and*

7 *WHEREAS, Parole agents have a challenging and dangerous*
8 *job that is a key element of the criminal justice system's efforts to*
9 *reintegrate criminals back into the community and hold parolees*
10 *accountable for misconduct, while recognizing that protecting*
11 *public safety must be the paramount objective; and*

12 *WHEREAS, The T.H. Pendergast California Parole Museum*
13 *in Diamond Bar was opened in 2003 to educate the public about*
14 *parole, its the work of parole agents and retired officers and their*
15 *positive contribution to the community contributions to the*
16 *community, and to honor those who have worked in the*
17 *profession and given a great part of their lives to public*
18 *protection and restorative justice. The T.H. Pendergast Parole*
19 *Museum Board of Directors collects and organizes artifacts that*
20 *document the history of parole in California; and*

21 *WHEREAS, The T.H. Pendergast California Parole Museum*
22 *will unveil an exhibit at the State Capitol commemorating and*
23 *celebrating 100 years of parole in California on June 30, 2005;*
24 *now, therefore, be it:*

25 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, that the*
26 *Assembly hereby recognizes and commemorates 100 years of*
27 *parole in California. the efforts of parole agents and retired*
28 *officers to promote public safety in California; and be it further*

29 *RESOLVED, That parole agents will continue to perform vital*
30 *tasks related to the reintegration of criminal offenders into the*
31 *community after completion of their prison sentences by holding*
32 *those offenders accountable for misconduct, and related to the*
33 *protection of public safety in California.*

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